

Message Text

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43

ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 ISO-00 L-03 INR-10 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 SY-10

JUSE-00 SCA-01 /033 W

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R 261215Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5661

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 1342

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC MA US

SUBJ: W/W: REPPAS

REF: TANANARIVE 1303

1. CONSOFF VISITED REPPAS ON SEP 25. FYI: DURING DISCUSSION HIS CASE, REPPAS REVEALED HE HAD INFACIT ALTERED AGM ACCOUNTS TO CONCEAL SIPHONING OFF OF FUNDS BY GREEK CODEFENDANT BACOPOULOS. ACCORDING TO REPPAS, "UNJUSTIFIED CAPITAL TRANSFERS" WERE MADE BY BACOPOULOS DURING CONSTRUCTION OF SUMPTIOUS AGM COMPLEX AT IVATO. FEELING AT TIME THIS WOULD ADD TO COMPANY'S NUMEROUS PROBLEMS, REPPAS DECIDED TO "REDO THE BOOKS" RATHER THAN LET THIS BE KNOWN. REPPAS CLAIMED GOMR, UP TO THIS POINT, IS UNAWARE OF HIS ACTIONS ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE ALREADY CHARGED BACOPOULOS WITH IRREGULARITIES IN CONSTRUCTION OF IVATO COMPLEX.

2. CONSOFF POINTED OUT PUBLICATION OF FALSE BALANCE SHEETS WERE PRECISELY ONE OF CHARGES AGAINST HIM, BUT REPPAS INSISTED THESE CHARGES WERE BASED ON OTHER INFO AND INCIDENTS WHICH WERE NOT AS IMPORTANT OR DAMNING. REPPAS SEEMED ESPECIALLY ANXIOUS ABOUT POSSIBILITY BACOPOULOS COULD WORSEN HIS, REPPAS', SITUATION BY REVEALING THIS "AREA IN WHICH WE ARE VERY EXPOSED". ALTHOUGH REPPAS AND LAWYER ARE HESITANT TO PROCEED WITH TRIAL, REPPAS FEELS HE HAS ANSWERED CHARGES AGAINST HIM AS THEY NOW STAND. HE STRESSED ABOVE MENTIONED INCIDENT WAS THEIR ONLY ACTIVITY WHICH MIGHT BE CONSIDERED CRIMINAL. PROSECUTION, HE FEELS, IS WEAK WITHOUT THIS INFO. END FYI.

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3. REPPAS REQUESTED EMBASSY ASK GOMR WHAT STEPS ARE TO FOLLOW NOW HEARINGS ARE FINISHED. NEITHER REPPAS NOR LAWYER HAVE BEEN ABLE OBTAIN TRIAL DATE OR DATE JUGE D'INSTRUCTION'S RECOMMENDATION TO PROCUREUR GENERAL WILL BE MADE CONCERNING BRINGING CASE TO TRIAL.

4. EMBASSY FEELS REPPAS' REQUEST REASONABLE AND WILL CONTACT GOMR TO ASK WHAT STEPS NOW TO BE TAKEN. REPPAS CONFIRMED TO CONSOFF THAT HE WANTS EMBASSY TO DO THIS EVEN IF IT MIGHT FORCE TRIAL WHICH HE AND HIS LAWYER PREFER TO AVOID.
MENDENHALL

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